

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:
  - 5 (a) a polynucleotide amplified from a *Zea mays* nucleic acid library using primers which selectively hybridize, under high stringency conditions, to loci within a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9;
  - (b) a polynucleotide encoding a maize Rar1-interactor protein;
  - 10 (c) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:9, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide capable of interacting with Rar-1;
  - (d) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide capable of interacting with Rar-1, wherein said polypeptide comprises a polypeptide sequence having at least 85% sequence  
15 identity to SEQ ID NO:8;
  - (e) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9;
  - (f) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the  
20 group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9; and
  - (g) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of (a) through (f).
2. A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 1.
- 25 3. A recombinant expression cassette, comprising a member of claim 1 operably linked to a promoter, wherein the nucleic acid is in sense or antisense orientation.
4. A host cell comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 3.
- 30 5. A transgenic plant cell comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 3.

6. A transgenic plant comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 3.
7. The transgenic plant of claim 6, wherein the plant is maize, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, and millet.
- 5 8. A transgenic seed form the transgenic plant of claim 6.
9. A method of modulating the level of Rar1-interactor protein in a plant, comprising:
- 10 (a) introducing into a plant cell with a recombinant expression cassette comprising a Rar1-interactor polynucleotide of claim 1 operably linked to a promoter;
- (b) culturing the plant cell under plant growing conditions to produce a regenerated plant; and
- (c) inducing expression of said polynucleotide for a time sufficient to
- 15 modulate Rar1-interactor protein in said plant.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the plant is maize, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, and millet.
- 20 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the level of Rar1-interactor protein is increased.
12. The method of claim 9, where in the Rar1-interactor is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9.
- 25 13. A method of enhancing disease resistance in a plant comprising:
- (a) introducing into a plant cell with a recombinant expression cassette comprising an Rar1-interactor polynucleotide of claim 1 operably linked to a promoter;
- (b) culturing the plant cell under plant growing conditions to produce a regenerated plant; and
- 30 (c) inducing expression of said polynucleotide for a time sufficient to modulate Rar1-interactor protein in said plant.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the plant is maize, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, and millet.
- 5 15. The method of claim 13, where in the Rar1-interactor is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9.
16. An isolated nucleic acid capable of interacting with Rar1 comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:
- 10 (a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:9, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide capable of interacting with Rar-1;
- (b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide capable of interacting with Rar-1, wherein said polypeptide comprises a polypeptide sequence having at least 90% sequence
- 15 identity to SEQ ID NO:8; and
- (c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of (a) or (b).
17. An isolated nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least
- 20 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:9, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide capable of interacting with Rar-1;
- (b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide capable of interacting with Rar-1, wherein said polypeptide comprises a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:8; and
- 25 (c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of (a) or (b).